

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE AMERICAN LEGION—A RECIPE FOR LEADERSHIP

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of the finest organizations in this Nation is the American Legion. I am very proud to be a life member of Post 2 in Knoxville, TN.

The American Legion is primarily a patriotic organization. We all need to do more to promote patriotism.

If you love another person you want to do everything possible to help that person become the best he or she can possibly be.

In the same way, if we teach our young people to love this country, they will want to help our Nation become the best that it can be.

The American Legion does many good things for the young people of the United States.

One of the very best programs, though, is Boys State. Several members of Congress, including myself, participated in American Legion Boys State programs.

I will never forget the friendships I made and the valuable lessons I learned at the Boys State week in Lebanon, TN, during the summer of 1964.

Some of these memories came back to me as I read the article on Boys State in the current issue of the American Legion magazine.

I would like to call this article to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S RECIPE FOR LEADERSHIP

On a scorching hot summer day in Columbia, S.C., more than 700 young men crowded the steps of the State House, where they were issued a challenge by South Carolina Governor David M. Beasley.

"I'm asking you to use the experience you've gained to go home and make a difference," Beasley urged them. "You're the ones who will be expected to come up with creative ideas, and plan and take charge. It's a big responsibility, but I know you're up to it."

This was no political puffery on Beasley's part. The boys belonged to The Department of South Carolina's Palmetto Boys State, which has a solid record of producing eminent alumni. They include U.S. Secretary of Education Richard Riley; Joseph P. Riley Jr., mayor of Charleston, S.C.; Tom Hartnett, former congressman for South Carolina; and Virgil Duffy, deputy director of labor for South Carolina.

The American Legion Boys State program celebrated its 60th Anniversary in 1995. Each year, thousands of young men from high schools are selected for this one week of leadership training that culminates in the mock election of state officials.

Two students from each state, except Hawaii, are selected for a national version of the program called Boys Nation held in Washington, D.C. (Hawaii is the only state that does not participate in either Boys State or Boys Nation.)

"Through Boys State, we can influence the lives of young people, and they are the future," says the Rev. Sinclair E. Lewis of Post 6, Columbia, S.C., who has spent 39 years working with the Palmetto program. Lewis credits Palmetto's unique leadership training and the closeness of the staff and counselors.

"Boys State teaches these young men how to make a difference without just complaining," says Baptist Minister Seth Buckley, another member of the Palmetto Boys State staff. "I tell them that they are not just the leaders of the future, they can be the leaders now, in their communities."

It was in 1963 that Legionnaire Gene Morehead of Post 1 Florence, SC, heard similar advice. Morehead went on to become a state judge in South Carolina's Family Court system. He has remained active in the program ever since.

"My involvement in Boys State made me realize I wanted to be a lawyer," says Morehead. "This program is so important that I take a week of my vacation time each year to be here with these young people."

Just like Morehead three decades ago, Craig Hardee of Aynor, S.C., a participant in this year's program, found in Boys State a blueprint for what he wants to do with his life. "I learned a lot about government, and that has influenced my career decision," he says. "Politics is now in my blood."

Political lessons were certainly learned by this year's Palmetto Boys State governor, Will Emerson of Easley, S.C.: "My biggest lesson on the road to being elected was if you do what people want done, then they will support you."

Mark Peper of Charleston, S.C., was typical of the fair number of boys who approached the Boys State program with certain reservations. "At first, I was pessimistic about how much the program could do for me," says Peper. "But I learned quickly that being involved in Boys State turns you into a leader." The proof: Peper ended up being elected Palmetto Boys State's lieutenant governor.

As Secretary of Education Richard Riley told the American Legion magazine: "South Carolina Boys State taught me a lot about politics. I used those lessons to become Sheriff at Boys State and later, in my adult life, to become governor of my State."

To find out more about Boys State, contact your local high-school guidance counselor or write to: Boys State, Americanism Division, The American Legion, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.

TRIBUTE TO EARNEST GRIFFIN

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Earnest Griffin, a pioneer in the mortuary business, who passed away this week at the age of 83. Mr. Griffin was 1 of only 6 licensed practicing morticians with over 60 years of experience. Since his graduating from the Worsham College of Mortuary Science in 1934, Mr. Griffin has conducted the

final rites of such noted figures as the Hon. Elijah Muhammad and Olympian Jesse Owens. Mr. Griffin also gained the honor of being the first African-American invited to join the International Federation Thantologist Association, a funeral directors association.

Mr. Griffin was also an avid pursuant of the events that surrounded the Civil War. So much so to this fact, he erected a wall honoring his grandfather, a Civil War veteran, at Civil War Camp Douglas. He had written extensively on preserving the history of the Civil War.

Mr. Griffin loved his community, and in living he tried diligently to show that. He served on the board of directors for Lakeside Bank for over 20 years. Mr. Griffin was also awarded the Community Service Award from Illinois Institute of Technology and he also added to the beauty of his community by having his architecturally distinctive Griffin Funeral Home building built in his own neighborhood.

Mr. Griffin was a caring family man, as well, as can be attested to by his wife Alyce and his two daughters Ethel and Pearl.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Earnest Griffin was a loved and respected man within his home and within his community. He spent his life serving the needs of others. It is not often that we are honored to know such a man. I have been blessed to have had the opportunity to have known him. I am proud to enter these words of remembrance into the RECORD.

THE OUTRAGEOUS PRISON SENTENCE IMPOSED AGAINST ACTIVIST WEI JINGSHENG

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, the Chinese Government has once again ignored internationally recognized human rights with the imprisonment and the holding of a show trial of political activist Wei Jingsheng. Mr. Wei, who is perhaps the best known and boldest advocate of democracy and human rights in China, was convicted at a sham trial last Wednesday, December 13, of trying to overthrow the Government of China. He was sentenced to 14 years in prison for trying to overthrow the Chinese Government.

Mr. Wei has already spent 16 years in prison for his activities in support of democracy. He was arrested in 1979, when he was only 29 years of age, and then was only released from prison in September 1993 when the Chinese Government was attempting to improve its image in an effort to win international support for Beijing to host the Olympic Games. Early in 1994—thanks in large part to a resolution which I introduced in the Congress and which was adopted overwhelmingly by this House and expressed opposition to holding the Olympic Games in Beijing because of China's deplorable record on human rights—

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

China did not receive the honor of hosting the Olympic Games. Within a short period of time, Mr. Wei was again arrested by Chinese authorities. He was held in prison without being charged for some 20 months—from April 1994 until this week.

Mr. Speaker, Chinese authorities should know that this callous, illegal and reprehensible action meets with the universal condemnation of democratic peoples and those who support human rights around the world. At the same time, however, we are not limited to verbal protestations against the Chinese action against Mr. Wei and other human rights and pro-democracy leaders. There are meaningful and effective actions that we can and should take.

First, Mr. Speaker, I am bipartisan in my criticism of the actions of the administration on Chinese human rights violations. I have criticized the Bush administration and the Clinton administration. The Bush administration made the unfortunate decision to extend MFN treatment and cooperation with the Chinese Government in a number of spheres—despite the outrageous Chinese actions in Tiananmen Square in 1989. This was one of the most horrible and vile acts of a government against peaceful students who were seeking to bring democracy and respect for human rights to their country. The Bush administration continued to advocate and work for continuing to grant MFN to the Chinese Government despite its reprehensible actions.

The Clinton administration, likewise has continued this appalling policy. The administration explicitly de-linked human rights from the issue of MFN and United States economic relations with China. This was a critical error. The Chinese only understand power, and when we fail to give economic teeth to our commitment to human rights, that commitment rings hollow. We are now reaping—with the unfortunate imprisonment of Wei Jingsheng—the tragic consequences of this policy of de-linking human rights from meaningful action that will let the Chinese Government know that we mean business when we express our support for human rights.

The second institution which deserves to be criticized in connection with this latest anti-democratic action by the Chinese Government are the American and the international business community. I call upon American businesses to search their conscience. Mr. Speaker, human rights and democracy are infinitely more important than profits. Our business community is timid and tepid in its support for human rights and for democracy in China. I urge the American business community to give attention to the values and principles that have made our Nation great and that permit them to conduct their business activities so successfully in the United States and in democratic and market economies around the world.

We now have a trade surplus with China that is approaching \$40 billion—a substantial sum, Mr. Speaker. American business has considerable leverage in China, but American businesses are so concerned not to rock the boat, not to upset the balance in their relations with their Chinese business partners, that they will not stand up for human rights and for democratic progress in China. This is short-

sighted and counterproductive, and it could ultimately undermine the business objectives that these companies are pursuing.

Third, Mr. Speaker, this Congress has not spoken clearly and decisively on this issue, and we bear a portion of the blame for the problems that we are now seeing. Earlier this year, this House voted a gentle slap upon the Chinese wrist for their appalling human rights record, but then the majority in this House voted an unconditional extension of MFN trade benefits for China. This was done, Mr. Speaker, despite the absolutely arrogant and appalling record of China on human rights. We cannot expect strong words to have the impact of real action.

I deplore the action of the majority in this House—and I add that it was a bipartisan majority including our colleagues on both sides of the aisle—in voting to continue MFN trade benefits with no consideration or link to China's actions in the area of human rights and democratization.

We in this House can—and occasionally in the past we have—taken action that will get the attention of the Chinese. Earlier this year, the House by a unanimous vote and the Senate by a near-unanimous vote approved a resolution which I introduced expressing the sense of the Congress that President Lee Teng-hui of Taiwan should be permitted to visit his alma mater, Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, to be honored as a distinguished alumnus. The Chinese took notice of that action, Mr. Speaker. They recalled their Ambassador and they took action. While the response was negative, we succeeded in getting their attention.

Mr. Speaker, that is what is needed. We must let the Chinese know that we can do more than express nice words of support for human rights democracy. We mean business. Human rights are serious. Human rights are of great importance to the American people. Our interest goes beyond making nice-sounding statements.

The Chinese Government must know that human rights are important to us. The imprisonment of Mr. Wei Jingsheng is an outrage. It should be met with tough and meaningful action. It is my intention, Mr. Speaker, to continue to press this struggle. I urge my colleagues to continue that fight as well.

Mr. Speaker, on the day that Mr. Wei was tried and sentenced to 14 years of imprisonment, his sister, Ms. Wei Shanshan, issued a moving and important statement which gives more of the background of Mr. Wei and information about his trial. I ask Ms. Wei's statement be placed in the RECORD, and I urge my colleagues to read her important statement.

STATEMENT BY WEI SHANSHAN

In 1979 my brother Wei was sentenced to fifteen years in prison for calling for democracy and human rights. He was twenty-nine years old, and by the time he was released from prison in 1993, he was forty-three. Six months later, he was again detained, and disappeared for twenty months, just because he talked with journalists and foreign diplomats. Now he has been sentenced to fourteen years in prison. He will be sixty years old by the time he serves the sentence.

Wei was charged with conspiring to subvert the government. The evidence included

money he had in the bank from an international award he received for his human rights work, files in his computer, his proposal to hold an art exhibit and concert, and organizing cultural exchanges. He planned to establish a business in order to hire families of the victims of the June 4th 1989 massacre. Also, letters to his overseas friends discussing human rights and democracy. The action he was accused of was having connections with hostile forces abroad, and publishing articles and expressing views damaging to China, including expressing support for Tibetan independence.

Wei gave a one hour defense, arguing against every single point. He said he does not support economic sanctions against China, but the Most Favored Nation trading status debate is not about sanctions, it's about putting pressure on China to improve human rights and respect the rule of law, and for the benefit of China. Several times he had to stop in his speech because he felt faint. I am very worried now about his health, because he has serious heart problems and high blood pressure. Can Wei survive another fourteen years in prison, my family wonders?

We cannot stand silent before this outrageous violation of human rights and international law. Since the government formally arrested and charged him, Chinese citizens have written letters to the National People's Congress to protest this injustice. This includes professor Ding Zilin, at the People's University, and many others.

We all know that in China speaking out on behalf of dissidents is extremely dangerous. But they are willing to take great risks to speak out for my brother. But Western governments are talking quietly and cautiously, afraid to offend the Chinese leaders. What are they afraid of? Is it only because they are worried about losing trade and business deals? Is money more important than freedom of conscience? I also heard that some people have told the U.S. government that Wei is not that important in China, or not well known, and therefore it is not worthwhile to defend him. I want to say that he doesn't have a party, he has no power. He is only an honest, independent-minded, and a brave Chinese who has a sense of responsibility to help those people without a voice, and those who are suffering.

To defend him is not a future political investment, but a defense of the conscience of all human beings. If a country like the United States, founded on principles of freedom and human rights, will not even help him, then this leads many to question whether the U.S. has given up on human rights. Just three days after Wei met with an American official, he was detained in 1994. Today he has been sentenced to fourteen years in prison. What will the U.S. do now for my brother?

The United States is the most powerful democratic country in the world. The American government has a strong influence on many important events such as Bosnia and Mideast peace. If the U.S. can make a strong, effective response to China, it can also help to stop this terrible injustice. It is not only a question of saving Wei Jingsheng, it is also a question of defending thousands of dissidents in China, and fundamental rights of freedom of expression of over one billion Chinese people. It is in the long-term interests of the U.S. and world peace.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR DEBATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THREE MEASURES RELATING TO UNITED STATES TROOP DEPLOYMENTS IN BOSNIA

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM LIGHTFOOT

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. LIGHTFOOT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the deployment of United States troops to Bosnia. I would first like to try to put the situation in a more personal context.

It is early evening. The sun set about an hour ago, it is dark, and you are looking forward to a short rest stop as you make your way from western to eastern Iowa to spend Christmas with family and friends.

The roadside sign says you are entering the city of Ottumwa, population 24,488.

Something is wrong. The city appears to be in nearly total darkness. The only illumination visible is from a few scattered street lights. Not a single home has a light showing. How can this be? It's only 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve and the town should be a hive of activity preparing for the Christmas celebration.

A strange, eerie feeling grips your chest. You cannot believe your eyes. No one is in Ottumwa. No policemen are on the streets, the fire station is closed, stores are dark. You search in vain for just one house with a light on.

Even the all-night convenience store is dark. Its Christmas lights are unlit. No one is in sight. No Christmas lights are showing in the downtown area or out at the mall. Deserted. Everyone has disappeared.

Is this something out of a science fiction movie? Where have all the people gone?

This fictional scenario is the equivalent of the 24,000 American homes that will have an empty chair at the Christmas dinner table. The missing sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, and husbands and wives are in Bosnia.

Why?

In my opinion, for no good reason.

The decision has been made by the President to send our troops into harm's way on an alleged peacekeeping mission. Perhaps in some other countries of the world this might be a possibility, but in Bosnia the hatred runs centuries deep.

Ask any policeman on the beat, in a civil disturbance, regardless of how much the combatants hate each other, they resent an outsider even more. It is human nature.

Unfortunately, the Balkans teach hatred from childhood. The sniper rifle bullet to the head is to avenge great, great, grandpa. Once that score is settled we still have all the rest of the family carrying a grudge. And thus the carnage goes on.

Our American troops are the cop going into this senseless civil feud that has raged for centuries.

Senator DOLE and former Presidents Bush and Ford say we must support the troops. I agree. The way we do that is by bringing them home.

This Christmas I would ask each of you to set an empty chair at your Christmas dinner table as a reminder of the young men and

women who will follow their orders to the letter. Brave young people who didn't join the military to be used as policemen in a civil dispute in which we have no national interest. Young Americans who take their duty to country very seriously and did not run away when called to action. Tremendous people who will not be home for Christmas.

One additional request: Each in your own words and your own way, please offer a prayer for these young folks.

CRITICAL CARE FOR HIGH-RISK YOUTH

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, many of us understand that our children are our most precious resource. The young people of today certainly are the leaders of tomorrow. We want them to grow to adulthood with a stable support system so that they in turn can understand the value of help to those in need of it, even when they will not admit it.

AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Services, under the direction of Peggy Hendrickson, has established the AuSable Valley High Risk Youth Diversion-Middle School Success Program to help children in area middle schools who are at high risk for substance abuse, delinquency, and school dropout. Efforts are targeted toward helping children at a formative age when they can recover from a momentary misdirection in their personal outlook. Those students with high incidence of school absenteeism and other high-risk indicators, such as several disciplinary referrals, school failure, peer conflict, or a history of family problems, are selected for the care that this program can provide.

The program helps build personal values and offers a support system. Certainly direct contact with the students is offered. But group enrichment activities, home visits with parents or guardians, and providing liaison between parents and school personnel are vital to the success of this program.

The Middle School Success Program started in West Branch 5 years ago, with funding from the Federal Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Program, and discretionary funding from the Governor of Michigan. The program was expanded earlier this year to the Hale and Oscoda Area Schools. It has been such a success that it was recognized last month by the U.S. Center for Substance Abuse Prevention as a national Exemplary Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Program, having been nominated by Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services and the Michigan Center for Substance Abuse Services, Michigan Department of Public Health.

I want to offer my personal congratulations to Peggy Hendrickson, the program director, and the members of the Direct Service Staff, Joe Fika, Kathy Eno, Sandra Van Wormer, Belva Iseler, Darla McKelvey, and Lisa Hawkins-Jack. Supervisor Kerry Boyd deserves our appreciation, as does Dr. Floyd Smith, the executive director, and the members of the AuSable Valley Community Mental Health Services Board. Their record of achievement—most notably having 100 percent of

participants either remaining or becoming drug free, 90 percent decreasing or eliminating classroom evictions for behavior, 80 percent reducing or eliminating school detentions, and a number of other accomplishments all deserve our praise.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and all of our colleagues to join me in congratulating these wonderful people for a record of accomplishment, offering a future of hope.

MANDATORY TESTING FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF ASSAULT THAT MAY HAVE EXPOSED VICTIM TO AIDS VIRUS

HON. THOMAS J. MANTON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. MANTON. Mr. Speaker, you have probably heard about the 6-year-old girl from Queens, Collete Lopez, who was stabbed with a hypodermic needle by a mentally disturbed vagrant. Collete and her family received some good news recently when Collete's initial test for HIV virus came back negative. But Collete will have to continue to be tested for the next 6 months before she and her family know for certain that she was not infected with the AIDS virus.

Mr. Speaker, I was shocked to learn that the perpetrator of this assault has no legal obligation to take an AIDS test himself. Under current law, a percentage of Federal funds are withheld from those States that fail to enact laws requiring convicted sexual offenders be tested for AIDS. However, there is no provision that addresses cases like this, where the victim is potentially exposed to the AIDS virus through a non-sexual, yet violent, assault. Until the perpetrator in this case is tested, the Lopez family will continue to be victimized by fear and uncertainty.

I have introduced legislation that would remedy this unthinkable situation. My legislation would force States to enact laws to require, at the victims request, that those who perpetrate crimes such as this one, undergo an AIDS test and report the results to the victim.

Mr. Speaker, for victims of violence, it is difficult enough dealing with a traumatic event, and its aftermath, without the specter of AIDS. When violent crime potentially causes a transfer of blood, the perpetrator should be required to take a blood test to determine whether they exposed their victim to the AIDS virus. My sincere hope is that this legislation will enable victims, such as Collete Lopez, and their families to get past the vicious crime, and on with their lives.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAMAR S. SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 18, 1995

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, December 13, I was recorded as voting "no" on the motion offered by Mr. CALAHAN disposing of Senate amendment 115 to H.R. 1868, the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations